

Application No. 10/750,860

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In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An article comprising:

a spinal prosthesis comprising a unitary body with at least three attachment points attachable to a spinal structure, said unitary body comprising a flexure assembly positioned between first and second attachment members, wherein flexure of said flexure assembly permits movement of the first attachment member relative to the second attachment member,

wherein said flexure assembly comprises a multi-part articulating assembly, including a first joint member that has a convex contour that articulates with a second joint member that has a concave contour that corresponds to and glides over the convex contour of the first joint member, said first and second joint members being attached to or integrally part of said attachment members; and wherein pedicle screw mounting members extend non-perpendicularly outwards from said first and second attachment members, and wherein pedicle screws, each having a threaded shank and a swivel head, are attached to said pedicle screw mounting members.

2. (original) The article according to claim 1, wherein said first and second attachment members are formed with mounting holes adapted for a mechanical fastener to pass through and into the spinal structure.

3-7. (withdrawn and canceled)

8. (original) The article according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said flexure assembly is integrally formed with said first and second attachment members.

9-10. (withdrawn and canceled)

11. (original) The article according to claim 1, wherein said flexure assembly comprises a boot placed at least partially around inner portions of said first and second attachment members, said boot being connected to said first and second attachment members.

12. (original) The article according to claim 11, wherein said boot is elastomeric.

13. (original) The article according to claim 1, wherein said flexure assembly is adapted to flex omnidirectionally.

14-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn and canceled)

19. (currently amended) The article according to claim 1, wherein said flexure assembly ~~comprises a multi-part articulating assembly, including a first joint member that has a truncated face formed in said convex contour that articulates with a second joint member that has a concave contour that corresponds to and glides over the convex contour of the first~~

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~~joint member, said first and second joint members being attached to or integrally part of said attachment members.~~

20. (original) The article according to claim 19, further comprising a stopper that limits the flexure of said flexure assembly and limits relative movement of the attachment members with respect to one another.

21. (new) The article according to claim 19, wherein said truncated face comprises a semi-circular cutout gouged out of said convex outer contour.

22. (new) The article according to claim 21, further comprising a stopper that limits the flexure of said flexure assembly and limits relative movement of the attachment members with respect to one another, wherein said stopper protrudes into the semi-circular cutout.

23. (new) The article according to claim 1, wherein said pedicle screw mounting members comprise rounded prongs.

24. (new) The article according to claim 1, wherein said pedicle screws are rotatably attached to said pedicle screw mounting members.